

GIRLS WHO SHOT STOKES WILL SUE HIM

Taft Hurriedly Calls Cabinet to Consider Threat by Russia

Rain to-night; Sunday, rain or snow; colder.

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RUSSIA THREATENS BREAK WITH UNITED STATES IF TREATY IS ABROGATED

Czar's Ambassador Formally Protests to Taft Against Action in Passport Affair.

STIR AT WHITE HOUSE.

President Calls Cabinet to Consider Situation—To Modify the Sulzer Bill.



M. BAKHMATEFF.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The President Taft regarded as serious the situation arising from the Russian protest that the adoption of the Sulzer resolution would be inconsistent with existing friendly relations was indicated late today when five members of the Cabinet were summoned to the White House for a special meeting. Secretary Knox, Attorney-General Wickersham and Secretaries MacVeagh, Meyer and Nagel were present.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—What in diplomatic language is interpreted here as practically a threat by Russia to sever all friendly relations with the United States in the event that Congress goes ahead with its plan to abrogate the treaty of 1825 with that country, has been made to President Taft and Secretary of State Knox by the Russian Ambassador, George Bakhmateff.

Mr. Bakhmateff protested against the Sulzer resolution for the abrogation of the treaty on the ground that its final adoption would be inconsistent with the long friendship that has existed between the United States and Russia.

While President Taft and Secretary Knox were silent on the subject, it was reported here late today that the Senate would pass, either on Monday or Tuesday, a modified resolution, but leaving out the long recitals of the House document, especially the declaration that Russia had violated the terms of the treaty.

Strong pressure, it was said, would be brought to bear on the House to accept the simplified resolution. "What further steps Russia will take following the practically certain abrogation of the treaty, Senate leaders today said was a matter for future consideration."

Meanwhile President Taft and Mr. Knox are continuing diplomatic negotiations with Russia, both here and in St. Petersburg through the American Ambassador there.

NIGHT CONFERENCE AT WHITE HOUSE.

The Russian Ambassador's protest was made to Secretary Knox late last night. Later the Ambassador and Secretary Knox called at the White House and took the matter up with the President in a conference which extended late into the night. Today the Secretary of State and the President considered the matter for more than an hour, and it was not until this conference was ended that the matter became public.

Mr. Bakhmateff let it be known that Russia was decidedly disappointed with the Sulzer resolution. President Taft discussed the matter today with several of his cabinet members and with Senators who visited the White House that Mr. Taft learned that an effort would be made to modify in the Senate the Sulzer resolution as it came from the House.

KNOX HAS FURTHER TALK WITH AMBASSADOR.

Following the conference between Secretary Knox and the President today, the Russian Ambassador called at the State Department and was escorted for some time with the Secretary. Secretary Knox admitted that the situation was at all serious, but would not discuss the details of their conference or of the call at the White House in any way what ever.

Owing to the reticence of all concerned in the negotiations, it was impossible today to learn the exact nature of the situation.

MR. VANDERBILT IS OPERATED ON FOR APPENDICITIS

Condition of Cornelius Satisfactory, Surgeons Report From Fifth Ave. Home.

Cornelius Vanderbilt was operated on for appendicitis at 9:30 o'clock today at his home, No. 47 Fifth avenue.

Two hours after the operation the following bulletin was issued from the Vanderbilt home:

Mr. Vanderbilt was operated on by Dr. Joseph Blake at 9:30. The operation is entirely satisfactory. There are no complications. Mr. Vanderbilt's condition is very good.

DR. AUSTIN PLINT JR.

There were six surgeons in attendance when the operation was performed, among them Dr. Austin Plint Jr. of No. 31 East 104th street, Dr. G. A. Brewer and Dr. Joseph Blake.

Mr. Vanderbilt's friends did not know until doctors announced that the operation was operative, that he had been ill for the last two months from appendicitis. Many were aware that he had been in bad health, but did not believe it was serious.

His family had hoped that if an operation became necessary it could be postponed until after the holidays, but yesterday his condition took a turn for the worse, and Dr. Plint called for Dr. Blake to consult with him.

Mr. Vanderbilt had without comment taken a vacation at a resort in the Adirondacks, but Mrs. Vanderbilt was greatly distressed by it. During the two months of his suffering Mr. Vanderbilt has been in a constant state of worry, that has been the cause of his illness.

His health first began to decline when he was travelling in Germany last summer. He cut short his vacation and returned Sept. 12, before his family started home. His appearance betrays no sign that he was seriously ill, and up to Tuesday he was able to attend to his regular duties and visit the theatre.

Statehouse Conference and Report on the Case of the Russian Ambassador and the President.

SHOT HERSELF TALKING TO MAN OVER TELEPHONE

Pistol Report Heard on Wire as Woman Fell Wounded in Chicago Hotel.

RELATIVE HERE TALKS.

Unable To Explain Affair With Man That Made Mrs. Robinson Try Suicide.

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—While telephoning to Frank H. Cockrell, a Chicago lumber dealer formerly of Jerseyville, Ill., to reproach him for his refusal to marry her, Mrs. Edna Robinson of Portland, Ore., a guest at the La Salle Hotel, shot herself early today and was taken to a hospital in a serious condition.

Cockrell, who was at another hotel a block away, heard the shot over the telephone and went at once to the hotel where Mrs. Robinson was found. Mrs. Robinson told the police that she and Cockrell had been to a theatre last night and later had gone to a cafe for supper. "I suggested to Frank that he marry me and he refused," she said, "and I decided that life was not worth living," she said.

The shot also was heard by House Detective Clark, who was passing Mrs. Robinson's room just as she telephoned to Cockrell and heard her say: "Listen, Frank, listen."

Cockrell, after describing the theatre party which Mrs. Robinson and he attended, said she telephoned him early today to remind him of an engagement to eat breakfast with her. He at first admitted that he heard the shot while talking to Mrs. Robinson, but later gave this version:

DENIES HE WAS ASKED TO MARRY THE WOMAN.

"I was awakened by the telephone at about 11 o'clock," he said, "and found Mrs. Robinson again at the telephone. 'Frank, I'm in trouble,' she said. 'Police men are all around me.' A policeman then told me she had shot herself and asked me to come over."

Cockrell later told conflicting stories about his acquaintance with Mrs. Robinson, again at the telephone. "Frank, I'm in trouble," she said. "Police men are all around me." A policeman then told me she had shot herself and asked me to come over."

He denied that he was a relative of former Senator Cockrell.

Mrs. Robinson said she lived with a sister in Portland and was divorced two years ago.

Mrs. Robinson has been a guest of the hotel since Dec. 2. She was out last evening and did not return until early this morning. The hotel detective went to the room when he heard a revolver shot and found Mrs. Robinson standing near the bed with blood flowing from a bullet wound near the heart.

"I tried to kill myself, but I made a bad job of it," she said.

CHRISTMAS PACKAGES ADDRESSED TO NEW YORKERS.

A number of Christmas packages, addressed to Mrs. Robinson, had just been prepared for mailing, were found in the hotel room. Among the addresses were:

Mr. B. J. Smith, No. 529 West One Hundred and Fourteenth street, New York City.

Sister E. J. Smith, St. Regis Convent, New York City; Mrs. Addie Smith, Mother Superior, Grosse Pointe Farm Convent of the Sacred Heart, Detroit, Mich.

MORNER MURDER SUSPECT IS HELD AT PORTCHESTER

Man Who Resembles Fugitive Farmhand Who Killed Four Denies the Crime.

TWO OTHERS ARRESTED.

One Suspect Taken at Cox-sackie Is Mobbed in Albany and Then Released.

PORTCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 16.—The police of this city today arrested a man believed to be Edward Donati, the man sought by the police of Troy as suspected of murdering the Morner family. The man under arrest closely corresponds to the description of the man, who was the town to which Donati said he was going the day before the murder. There were several of his clothing and his handkerchief which he says were the result of a nosebleed.

A request for a fuller description of Donati was sent to the Troy authorities and in the answering despatch the description was very different from the first circular sent out and does not fit the man at all. The police are holding him to await further information.

SUSPECT MOBBED IN ALBANY, THEN SET FREE.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 16.—"That's not the man," exclaimed Vera Vandenberg, a South Troy girl of eighteen years, when confronted early today by the man arrested last night at Cox-sackie because his description tallied with that of Edward Donati, sought by the police as the possible murderer of the Morner family of four at De Forestville last Tuesday.

Sheriff Cottrell thereupon ordered the suspect released from the Rensselaer County jail.

Before this the man had gone through an exciting series of adventures. He had been positively identified as the hunted man by a friend of the murdered people, hustled away from a crowd at the Union station at Albany an hour or so before dawn, and driven eight miles in a dizzling rain in an automobile from Albany to Troy jail, where he was held.

Miss Vandenberg, who had visited one of the murdered girls at the Morner farm, was called out of bed this morning by a deputy sheriff and asked to go to the jail to identify the man supposed to be the slaying Donati.

SUSPECT GRILLED IN JAIL BY PROSECUTOR.

Accompanied by her brother, she rode several miles through a storm and was hurried through a curious crowd at the entrance to the jail. The man, who said his name was Samuel Raymond, an Italian, was being examined by Assistant District-Attorney Quilliam in a private room. As Miss Vandenberg stepped inside the door she gave the suspect just one glance and then while all expected her to say "He's the one," asserted that the wrong man had been caught. She left the jail immediately.

As soon as he was freed the Italian was given his breakfast, half a dollar by Sheriff-elect Snell of Rensselaer county and told to go back to Albany. The officers who apprehended Raymond volunteered to take the man back to Cox-sackie.

The arrest of a suspect in a town where there is a large Italian colony aroused great excitement and it soon became known that he would arrive in Albany about 4 o'clock this morning. As the train pulled into the station a mob of hundreds of persons surged to view the car steps, but were held in check by a cordon of police.

Sheriff Cottrell and his deputies, with John J. Bonacker of Rensselaer, a friend of the murdered family, entered the car, however, and stopped before the suspected man, who was handcuffed to his captors.

MOB AT STATION THREATENED THE MAN.

"I've seen you before," announced Bonacker.

"You never saw me before," asserted the Italian.

"I haven't," returned Bonacker.

At this critical juncture the crowd pushed forward, and the officers with their prisoners went out the other end of the car and rushed to a waiting automobile. The crowd was there before them, and in an instant the machine was surrounded, many in the crowd muttering angry threats at the man.

The chauffeur threw in the gears and sped away.

Clark and Fogler, Leaders in Race Which Ends at the Garden To-Night



KRAMER'S SPRINT EXPECTED TO CATCH FOGLER AND CLARK

Six-Day Crowd at Garden Look for Hair-Raising Duel Between Australian Midget and Champion Before Race Is Over.

His confidence of success unshaken by the fact that his greatest rival, Jackie Clark, is now a full lap ahead of him, Champion Frank Kramer, upon whom the six-day track this afternoon with determination written on his features, Word went forth from apparently authoritative sources that before midnight the speed king would make a desperate attempt to overcome the disadvantage suffered by Kramer and Moran when Clark and Fogler lapped the whole outfit early today. The result was the congregation of a monster throng of bike fans.

Shortly after 2 o'clock the officials notified the trainers and riders that under no circumstances will a team be permitted to be represented on the track for more than five laps during the remainder of the hour of the race. The new regulation is likely to be an important factor in determining the winner, for should there be a real "jam" with the usual attendant mill at its end it will not be strange if one or more teams were forced out of the race.

RIDERS HANDICAPPED BAD BY SCARCITY OF WHEELS.

Few of the riders brought more than three machines with them. It is one of the frequent "spits" in nearly all of which machines were badly damaged, practically all of the teams are up against it for bicycles. A corps of mechanics is constantly at work on damaged bikes, but a serious accident would come pretty near putting some one out of the running, through the inability to get another mount with which he was familiar.

At 3 o'clock this afternoon the pace of the early afternoon was being steadily maintained, all hands swinging around the track at a twenty-two-mile-an-hour clip. At this hour also the Garden was jammed with spectators from floor to rafters.

About a hundred strenuous copies of "Young America" took one of the Twenty-seventh street fire-escapes by storm, smashed the casing of a window in the gallery and secured points of vantage, defying any one to put them out till it's all over. As the afternoon wore on, the people formed an opinion that the swift pace set this afternoon rather than the early afternoon.

At 5 o'clock the pace of the early afternoon was being steadily maintained, all hands swinging around the track at a twenty-two-mile-an-hour clip. At this hour also the Garden was jammed with spectators from floor to rafters.

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SHOW GIRL TO SUE STOKES FOR \$100,000; CHUM TO JOIN ACTION

Ethel Conrad Fixes Big Sum as Damages for Malicious Prosecution; Lillian Graham Hasn't Decided on Claim.

THEY CHARGE ATTEMPT TO BUY THEIR TESTIMONY.

Jury Refused to Credit Evidence of Millionaire Who Exacted "Exoneration" Letter.

Counsel for Lillian Graham and Ethel Conrad announced today that the young women, having been absolved by a jury of an attempt to kill W. E. D. Stokes, will now proceed to sue Mr. Stokes for damages for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. Miss Graham has not decided upon the size of the dent she expects to put in Mr. Stokes's bank account, but Miss Conrad thinks she has been damaged about \$100,000 worth.

"I contend," said Robert M. Moore, counsel for Miss Conrad, today, "that an action lies against Stokes for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution, and that she can recover substantial damages. Stokes made a fake charge to protect himself from scandal, and he shall pay for it. I shall advise Miss Conrad to begin action for about \$100,000."

"I said last night," put in Clark L. Jordan, counsel for Miss Graham, "that Stokes should be made to pay the expenses of these girls. I have already told Miss Graham she would be foolish to let the old villain get away with his conspiracy against her, and I shall start an action against him in her behalf without delay."

COUNSEL SAYS ATTEMPT WAS MADE AT BRIBERY.

Both lawyers charged that before and during the trial they were approached by attorneys from Stokes with offers for immunity for one of the defendants who would, as the lawyers put it, "depart from the truth" and corroborate Stokes as to what occurred in the day of the girls in the Varuna at the time of the shooting. Their charges have been placed in the hands of District-Attorney Whitman, according to their statements.

Miss Graham and Miss Conrad appeared at the office of Mr. Jordan, in the Tribune Building, this afternoon to talk over their case and the future. They have been overworked with offers from vaudeville agents, and will doubtless accept a theatrical engagement.

"These young women," explained Mr. Moore, "have no means. They must make a living. The stage offers them their best opportunity. Mr. Jordan and myself have been reluctant to advise them to accept a stage engagement, because, of course, they owe us our fees and we do not like the idea of the impression that they are working to pay a matter of fact, the stage offers them a career, entirely independent of any debt they may owe, and they will probably embrace it."

JURY WOULD HAVE CONVICTED STOKES, AS WELL.

Assistant District-Attorney Buckner, who prosecuted the showgirls, was shocked by the verdict. He honestly expected a conviction, and the worst he could figure against himself was a disagreement, especially as the jury remained out an hour.

"If Stokes had been put on trial with the two girls all three would have been convicted," said the disappointed prosecutor today.

Fearful of a possible fatal effect upon Mr. Stokes, his doctors and his wife have kept the news of the verdict from him. He is not out of danger, and a shock would almost certainly bring on complications. Knowledge that the jury acquitted Miss Graham and Miss Conrad will be kept from him as long as possible.

It will not add to Mr. Stokes's peace of mind to know that he was personally responsible, in a great measure, for the clearing of the young women whom he accused of trying to murder him. The jurors did not believe his testimony. They were convinced, after they heard him testify, that he was

FOR RACING SEE PAGE 2.